



DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz
April 7, 2014

My office released the Educator Effectiveness data today. Attached are the press release and the accompanying data. It is no surprise to me that 87% of our educators are effective and highly effective.

Congratulations to MSD Pike Township schools on winning a \$7 million federal award to expand its career academies through partnerships with Conexus, the National Society of Black Engineers, Women in Technology, and the Indiana Girls Collaborative. This is an exciting endeavor to ensure our students are prepared for the opportunities that await them upon graduation.

Please see below the dates for the release of IREAD-3 data for school review. Forthcoming, school and statewide data will be available on Compass.

Date	Release
April 9, 2014	Electronic data available for schools and corporations via INORS (Indiana Online Reporting System)
April 15 - 17, 2014	Paper copies of <i>Individual Student Report</i> arrive for distribution to parents

There is a State Board of Education meeting this week on April 9th. I will follow up on topics in my next communication. Thanks for all you do!!!

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

NOTE: * indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.



The Hoosier Family of Readers is an initiative to build a culture of readers in the state of Indiana. But in order to read, kids need books! That's why the Hoosier Family of Readers is excited to partner with nonprofit **First Book** to help you and your Family of Readers access **brand new, free and low-cost books**.

First Book (www.firstbook.org) is a nonprofit social enterprise that distributes tens of millions of new books and educational resources every year to schools serving children in need nationwide. For more information contact the First Book Help Team at (800) READ-NOW or help@firstbook.org.

Memorandum

MEMORANDUM: ISTEP+ Online Testing - Administration Status

All corporations and nonpublic/charter/Choice schools are required to participate in ISTEP+ Online during the Spring 2014 Multiple-Choice testing window for all grade levels (3-8) at each school, provided the site has the needed equipment and connectivity. IDOE and CTB staff members are working to finalize online sites, and the status of each school is based on information from the Statewide Readiness Test and the Registration and Technology Survey, as well as the results of site-specific support.

Please carefully **review the list of schools and online/paper-and-pencil status as of April 4, 2014**, which is being sent to Corporation Test Coordinators.

To discuss the status of online testing for one or more schools, **Corporation Test Coordinators** are asked to follow the below directions:

- Send an email to istep@doe.in.gov
- Enter on the email subject line: **Online Status, Corp xxxx, School xxxx**
- Briefly describe your situation within the body of the email

IDOE staff members will contact **Corporation Test Coordinators** to provide assistance. ([see memorandum](#))

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Association of School Principals will hold their annual Aspiring Principals Conference on April 27-28 at the Valle Vista Conference Center in Greenwood. This conference is a great opportunity for those just starting their program or for those that are completing their degree. This 2 day experience provides an opportunity for building future leaders to learn from veteran principals, and to experience a mock administrative interview. Plus, the registration fee also includes an IASP Aspiring Principals membership for the 2014-15 school year.

The [registration form](#) is available and also includes the agenda for the day

Those wishing to register can send in the registration form, or they may visit

<http://www.iasp.org/index.php/principal-programs/conferences-and-workshops/aspiring-principals-conference/> and register online.

MEMORANDUM: Schools have been getting numerous inquiries from parents regarding whether and how they can opt their children out of participating in state-wide assessments. Indiana law neither provides for an "opt-out" procedure nor recognizes "opting out" of assessments. Although it is not against the law to refuse to allow a child to participate in assessments, every student attending a public or accredited nonpublic school in Indiana must take the Indiana-wide assessments to graduate or, in the case of IREAD-3, avoid being retained. Furthermore, it is a violation of Indiana's compulsory school attendance laws for a parent to refuse to send his or her child to school for the purpose of avoiding tests, including assessments. See IC [20-33-2](#). As with any test, additional consequences for failing to participate in any statewide assessment, and procedures to manage students who refuse to participate, should be determined at the local school level. School

administrators also may wish to inform parents that not allowing their children to take Indiana's assessments may have far-reaching ramifications, including impacting schools' A-F accountability grades and teacher compensation.

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Department of Education Office of English Learning and Migrant Education has announced summer 2014 training dates for the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards framework for English learners. Educators will begin implementing these standards in content area and English learner classrooms in SY 2014-2015 to support academic language development for Indiana's linguistically diverse students. The training schedule, locations, and registration information can be found via the [WIDA Standards Training Announcement](#). Educators can begin learning about the WIDA ELD standards using Indiana's [WIDA Resource Guide](#). Questions about the WIDA ELD standards or training can be sent to nwilliamson@doe.in.gov or 317-233-0786.

Information From Other Agencies

Scholarships for Argentine School Principals to Visit Schools in the United States: The Fulbright Commission in Argentina and the Government of the City of Buenos Aires sponsor an Educational Exchange program for School Principals, Vice-Principals, and Superintendents from the City of Buenos Aires to spend 3 weeks in schools the United States shadowing an American colleague.

The Fulbright Program is a U.S. Government funded program that started in 1946 and is now active in 155 countries. The Fulbright program started in Argentina in 1956 and has awarded over 6500 grants to highly distinguished candidates from both countries to study, teach, and conduct research in the United States and in Argentina. For more information please contact Dr. Norma Gonzalez, Executive Director, Fulbright Program ngonzalez@fulbright.com.ar, Tel (54-11) 4814-3561/1956 o 4811-1494 <http://www.fulbright.edu.ar> ([see attachment](#))

3rd Annual Northeast Indiana High School Machining Challenge

Date: April 25, 2014 at 3:32:18 PM EDT

Northeast Indiana to attend our 3rd annual high school machining challenge. ([attached flyer](#))

The format of the machining challenge is:

- 4 teams of 4 students from South Adams and Huntington North Machine Trades Classes.
- Each team consists of 2 South Adams and 2 Huntington North Students
- Each group is given a set of prints for a usable machinist tool and they will make 4 of each part
- Each team will work together to complete as much of the project as they can in the time allowed

There are also measurement and written tests involved on an individual level, but the contest puts the most emphasis on the TEAM. We hope to give employers the best chance to see our soon to be graduates in action in a setting that best represents how they will perform in the workplace.

Legislative Updates

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School Data